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Urban District Council.




Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending 31st December, 1925.



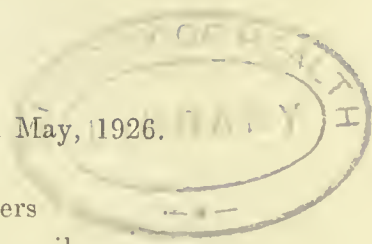
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Council Offices, Aspull,

13th May, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Aspull Urban District Council.



Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report, on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Township, for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The appended tables, required by the Ministry of Health, and County Council, are so comprehensive, that I need not weary you with many preliminary remarks.

There has been a good deal of sickness in the township during the year. Several Schools were closed in December, 1924, owing to prevalence of Measles, and were still closed in January of 1925, and in this month it was found necessary to close the Wesleyan Schools. Five deaths were due to this disease and its complications.

Twenty-nine cases of Scarlet Fever were reported. These were distributed over the entire township, no particular source could be traced, and only one death was reported due to it.

Sixteen cases of Diphtheria were notified, and no deaths.

Fifty-six cases of Pneumonia were notified, and twenty-one deaths. The large number of fatal Pneumonias, added to fifteen due to Bronchitis, making a total of thirty-six, may be largely accounted for, and ascribed chiefly to the very unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing throughout a great part of the year. All other diseases are mentioned in the tables attached.

The death-rate, 17.2, is slightly greater than in the previous year, but the infantile rate is much less, and below the previous ten years' average. The birth-rate of 21.0 is the same as in 1924.

The number of conversions of Privies into Water carriage has not come up to our expectations, only twenty-five being so dealt with. This is largely due to the depressed times. The old-fashioned privies are, generally speaking, in very fair order, and are kept well under supervision by the Sanitary Officer. I am well aware that your Council is alive to the desirability of removing these latter, and as soon as economic conditions enable us to proceed, we hope to make a decided effort to carry out a general conversion.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. COOKE, M.O.H.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District
Council.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1925.

The conversion of privy middens to the water-carriage system is proceeding satisfactorily, although the severe weather we experienced at the end of the year interfered with the work where new closets had to be built. Additional water-closets are being provided wherever possible by the owners of property in order that each house may have its own convenience.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, which came into force during the year have added to my duties, and the carrying out of these takes up a considerable portion of my time. All animals slaughtered in the district for human consumption are examined.

Efforts are being made to render fit for habitation property which is capable of being so dealt with. The severe weather conditions at the end of the year were the cause of the postponement of considerable repairs to property, and this to some extent accounts for the number of nuisances remaining unabated at the end of the year.

It has been necessary in four instances to institute proceedings before the Magistrates in order to secure compliance with the Council's requirements.

Conversions have been carried out at the following properties (from privy middens to water closets):—

Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, Brinsop Street (2 privy closets to 4 W.C.'s)

Nos. 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, and 77, Leeds Street (3 privy closets to 7 W.C.'s).

Nos. 21 and 22, Ratchiffe Road (2 privy closets to 2 W.C.'s).

Nos. 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, and 100, Wigan Road (5 W.C.'s provided).

Nos. 609, 611, and 613, Bolton Road (3 privy closets to 3 W.C.'s)

Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15, Lower Bolney Street, and 21 and 23, Cale Lane (4 privy Closets to 7 W.C.'s).

Nos. 2, 4, 6, and 8, School Street, 2, 4, 6, and 8, Green Street, and 32 and 34 Wigan Road ((4 privy closets to 8 W.C.'s).

Nos. 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, and 603, Bolton Road (7 privy closets to 7 W.C.'s).

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to tender my sincere thanks to you, also the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials of the Council, for the courteous help and consideration extended to me at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES OCCLESHAW,

Sanitary Inspector.

The following is a summary of the visits paid to dwelling-houses during the year:—

Total number of dwelling-houses and premises inspected <i>re</i> Nuisances and Complaints	308
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and re- corded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	86
Notices issued <i>re</i> Nuisances (Informal)	190
Notices issued <i>re</i> Nuisances (Formal)	154
Number of Premises at which Nuisances were Abated	186
Number of Nuisances remaining on books 31st Decr., 1925...	122

NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Houses with defective roofs	89
Houses with damp and defective walls	112
Houses with defective eave and down spouts	53
Houses requiring eave and down spouts	21
Houses with defective windows	94
Houses with defective ceilings	18
Houses with defective floors	60
Houses requiring decorating	46
Houses with defective and dangerous fireplaces	15
Houses with defective and dangerous staircases	23
Houses with defective sink waste pipes	19
Houses requiring sink waste pipes	1
Houses with defective slopstones	7
Defective yard surfaces	15
Defective drains	6
Defective and foul gullies	8
Choked drains	14
Defective areas around gullies	7
Defective condition of privy middens	16
Defective condition of closet pails	1

Defective condition of closets, ashpits, and ashplaces	6
Defective condition of W.C. pedestals	4
Defective condition of W.C. flushing cisterns	9
Defective condition of W.C. flush pipes	1
Absence of water supply to W.C.'s.	17
Absence of water supply for domestic purposes	7
Insufficiency of ashbins	12
Filthy condition of dwelling house floors, etc.	3
Filthy condition of dwelling house yards	14
Accumulation of Manure	5
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	12
Miscellaneous	3

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The usual routine inspections of the cowsheds, etc., have taken place during the year, and the regulations have been enforced. Considerable alterations in connection with four cowsheds have been carried out. Unfortunately full advantage is not always taken of these improvements by the tenants, and in some cases the condition of the cows leaves much to be desired.

The following is the number of premises registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922:—

Retail Purveyors of Milk	21
Producers of Milk	18
Number of Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	50
Number of Visits to Milkshops	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Every case of infectious disease was visited and re-visited and the inspection of the sanitary arrangements of each house carefully made. Disinfection of the articles and premises by Formaldehyde followed, and where necessary the limewashing of the walls and ceilings was carried out.

Number of houses disinfected	50
Number of rooms disinfected	55
Number of articles disinfected	520
Number of notices (Informal) with respect to cleansing	26
Number of premises cleansed and limewashed after infectious disease	21

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, MEAT SHOPS, ETC.

There are within the district two Registered Slaughter-houses.

As mentioned before the work entailed in the supervision of these slaughter-houses accounts for a fair proportion of my time.

Number of slaughter-houses on Register	2
Number of visits to slaughter-houses	208

The following animals were examined as to their fitness for sale:—

	Condemned	Part only passed	Passed, offal only condemned	Passed
Beasts	1	1	11	36
Calves	0	0	0	5
Sheep	0	0	7	43
Pigs	0	0	0	45

FOOD CONDEMNED, 1925.

Number of Oxen	1
Number of which a portion only was condemned	1

Since the coming into force of The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, all butchers and other food shops have been inspected regularly, and these have in all cases complied with our requirements.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

The workshops and bakehouses have been regularly visited and the requirements of the law as to limewashing, etc., have been insisted upon.

Number of workshops on register (Domestic included)	12
Number of bakehouses	3
Number of visits to Workshops and Bakehouses	40
Number of visits to Factories	12

The following defects were dealt with:—

Absence of, and insufficient, sanitary accommodation	2
Requiring limewashing and cleansing	6
Number of defects remedied	8
Number of letters sent out	2
Intimations (verbal)	6

Trades for which Registered Workshops are used:

Boot Repairing	Wheelwright	Joinery
Horse Shoeing	Plumbing	

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Case No.	Nature of Case.	Results.
1	Premises (dwelling-houses) in such a state as to be a nuisance.	Order for abatement of nuisance made, defendant who was owner of property to pay all costs.
2	Do.	Do.
3	Do.	Do.
4	Do.	Do.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table shows the closet accommodation in the district in December, 1925:—

Privy Middens	332
Privy Closets attached	612
Dry Ashpits	35
Ashbins	621
Fresh Water Closets	622
Waste Water Closets	1
Pail Closets	32

The increase in the number of pail and water closets is accounted for by the fact that in previous years the sanitary accommodation at the factories has not been included in this summary.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The work under these Acts is carried out by the County Constabulary, and the Superintendent for the Division has kindly supplied the necessary information as regards the number of samples taken in this area.

Whisky	2
Milk	35
	—
Total.....	37

All the above samples were genuine, except two milk samples, in which proceedings were taken; no convictions,

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.
URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.
PARTICULARS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

I. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 1906.

Population—Census, 1921—7,851. Estimated, 1925, 8124.

Physical features and general character of the area: Aspull lies N.E. County Borough of Wigan—part of which is contiguous with the Borough. The ground has an upward tendency to N.E., its height above sea-level varying from 250 to 500 feet.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921)—1,670.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)
1806

Rateable value, £24,285.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £81.

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants—Ironworks and Coal Mining, Cotton Spinning and Weaving. Coal Mining is the principal industry, which, however, is now declining. The inhabitants are mostly of the manual working class.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health
—None.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Males.	Females.
Births in 1925	171	80	91
Deaths in 1925	140	73	67

	Birth-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.	
Mean of 10 years				
1915-1924	25.1	15.6	0.67	119
1924	21.0	14.6	0.36	127
1925	21.0	17.2	0.98	93
Increase or Decrease in 1925 on—				
Ten Years' Average ...	—4.1	+ 1.6	+ 0.31	—26
Previous Year	nil	+ 2.6	+ 0.62	—34

The amount of Poor Law relief; the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised:

The Wigan Infirmary is freely used for both accidents and sickness.

Poor Law relief for year: £2,844 1s. 2d.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review; and any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health?

No. Apart from the usual visitations of Scarlet Fever and Measles. There is no occupation injurious to health.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available:—

For Smallpox?—Wigan. Where situate?—Wigan.

For other Infectious Diseases?—Wigan. Where situate?—Wigan.

†Joint or otherwise?—Otherwise. Cases are paid for individually.

†If you have the joint use of Isolation Hospital belonging to some other Authority, state nature of "Agreement," or "Arrangement." Is any Retaining Fee paid?

Number of Beds available for your District?—For Smallpox: No definite number. For other Infectious Diseases: No definite number.

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the district for?—

(a) Tuberculosis: No. (b) Maternity Cases: No. (c) Children: No.

Give postal address of Union Infirmary and any other Public Institution in District: None.

Have any of the following been provided in your district?—

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children: No.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. Give day and time open: Child Welfare Centre under County Council.

Day Nursery: No.

School Clinic: Under County Council.

Tuberculosis Dispensary: No.

Veneral Diseases Treatment Centre: No.

Ambulance facilities:—

(a) For Infectious Cases: Sanatorium, Wigan.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases: Wigan Police (Motor), Wigan Coal and Iron Co. (Horse).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: Luther Cooke.

Salary (including Bonus) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1925: £110.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part time.

Any other public appointments held by him?—Poor Law and Public Vaccinator.

Sanitary Inspector(s): James Occleshaw. Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector at 31/12/1925: £130.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part-time. If not, what other appointments does he hold?—Road Surveyor. £111.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—

Nature of arrangements in the district for—(a) General Nursing: Done by District Nurse. (b) For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, &c.: None.

By whom provided?—Haigh and Aspull Nursing Association.

If not by Local Authority, state financial arrangements and scheme of co-ordination: None.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District?—Yes.

How many District Nurses employed?—One.

If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work?—No.

If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work?—No.

Does the Association undertake—(a) *Midwifery Cases?—No. (b) Monthly Nursing?—No.

(*Attendance at confinement without a Medical Practitioner.)

Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants?—No.

Midwives—Is any midwife employed by or assisted by the Local Authority?—No.

Number of midwives on the County Council Register, 31/12 1925? Number on Register: 6. Number actually practising: 6.

Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the midwifery service?—Very satisfactory.

Legislation in force—

Specify any Local Acts: None.

Local Orders: Regulations *re* Cowsheds, November 1st. 1890.

General Adoptive Acts: Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907. Parts 3 and 4. 22/6/12.

Bye-laws relating to public health: Slaughter-houses. 7th June, 1911.

Observations as to their administration: Carried out efficiently.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Source and quality: Bolton Corporation. Good.

Constant or intermittent: Constant.

Approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied?—
Direct: 1,665. By stand pipe: None.

Possibilities of contamination?—None.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action?—No. All tin-lined pipes.

Any insufficiency, and where?—No.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year: No.
Rivers and Streams—

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams.
Sources and nature?—No.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewage Disposal Works, method of treatment: Sewage taken over by Wigan.

What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year?—None.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system?—
Four houses. Hindley Mill Cottages.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing &c.?—Periodically attended to.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1925:—

Privy Middens: Number of Middens 332.

Number of Closets attached to these Middens 612.

Number of Pail Closets 32.

Number of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens) 35.

Number of Fresh Water Closets 622.

Number of Movable Ashbins for refuse 621.

Number of Waste Water Closets 1.

Number of Privy Closets: To Fresh W.C.'s: During year 1925, 25; during five years, 1921—1925, 110. To Waste W.C.'s none. To Pails, etc., none.

Number of Pail Closets: To Fresh W.C.'s none. To waste W.C.'s none.

Number of Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s: None.

Number of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles: During year 1925, 50. During five years, 1921—1925, 216.

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—No, excepting that the Council assist and urge when possible the conversion.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—Yes. If so, how much?—Cost of drainage to main sewer.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property?—Fresh water.

Scavenging

Character and efficiency of the arrangements for Scavenging and Removal and Disposal of House Refuse for whole of district?—Removed by carts; buried; work carried out efficiently.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)—Sanitary Authority.

Are motor vehicles used?—No.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—Day.

How is the Refuse disposed of?—Buried.

Has a Destructor been provided?—No.

Sanitary Inspections during 1925—

Number of premises visited 308.

Defects or nuisances?—Number discovered 308. Number abated 186.

Number of Notices served?—Informal 190. Statutory 154.

Legal proceedings?—Number 4. Result satisfactory.
Smoke Nuisance—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement?
—No.

Number of Observations: None. Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result: None.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—5 minutes.

Offensive Trades—

Number: None. •

Workshops and Workplaces—

What is their condition?—Good.

Common Lodging-houses—

Number: None.

Houses let in Lodgings—

Action taken or needed: None.

Schools—

Sanitary condition: Good. Water Supply, &c.: Good.
Canal Boats—

Number Inspected: None. Number of Infringements of Acts: None.

4.—HOUSING.

HOUSING: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND
CONCLUSIONS.

(1) General housing conditions in the area—

(1) General housing conditions: Fairly good.

(2) (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses: No shortage; less than 5 persons per house.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage: None. Industrial outlook not good. Mines becoming exhausted.

(3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future: Population may decline owing to the mines becoming worked out.

(II.) Overcrowding—

(1) Extent: Negligable.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding: None required.

(4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken: None.

(III.) Fitness of houses—

(1) (a) General standard of housing in the area: Fair.

(b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses: Due to lack of cleaning inside by occupiers.

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants: Both in many instances; the occupiers are mostly poor, and owners avoid repairs owing to shortage of money.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under—
 (a) The Public Health Acts: Informal notices are sent and if not complied with, legal notice and proceedings. Four legal proceedings during the year.

(b) The Housing Acts: Inspections and Closing Orders.

(Note.—The detailed statistics as to action under these Acts during the year 1925 should be given in the Table set out on page 8).

(3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925: No difficulties.

Special measures taken or suggested—

(a) Any special action to secure improved management of property by owners: None.

(b) Better care of property by tenants: None.

(c) The gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements: None.

(d) Any special method of dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or other types of insanitary property: Very few back-to-back houses in township.

(4) Conditions so far as they effect housing, as regards:

(a) Water supply: Adequate.

(b) Closet accommodation: Good.

(c) Refuse disposal: On farm lands chiefly.

(d) Measures taken during 1925 as regards (a), (b), and (c): Conversion to water carriage system being encouraged as much as possible.

(IV.) Unhealthy areas—

Information as to complaints received or representations made and action taken, in regard to unhealthy areas: None.

(V.) Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c.—

(1) As to working of existing bye-laws: None.

(2) As to need for new bye-laws or revision of existing bye-laws: None.

(VI.) General and Miscellaneous—

Generally, an account of any action bearing on the public health, not covered by the above particulars, which has been taken during the year by the Local Authority in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts, including any action taken by the Authority to provide information as to the proper use of household fittings (*e.g.*, sinks, water-closets, &c.) and the disposal of household refuse so far as possible by burning: The Sanitary Officer makes frequent inspections in doubtful areas and interviews owners when possible.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)... 1

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—

(i) By the Local Authority —

(ii) By other bodies or persons —

Number of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme —

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation:—

Have any advances been made during 1925—(a) By lands?—None. (b) By subsidy?—None.

Unfit Dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	221
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	86
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of these referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	207

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	145
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Action under Statutory Powers—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—(a) By owners: None. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners: None.

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close —

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 150
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: (a) By owners 95. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners: None.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 —

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 12
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 12
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit —
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

D.—Number of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, &c. —

*Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects.

Notices with regard to drainage and other defects should be included under Sanitary Inspections on page 5.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.—Observations on—

(1) The wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the district: Carried out by the County Constabulary. 35 samples taken. Proceedings in 2 cases.

(2) The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character: Both good.

(3) The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders: Dairies and Cowsheds inspected frequently. Alterations have been carried out in connection with four cowsheds.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923—

Number of Dealers' licences issued during 1925 in respect of: "Certified" Milk: None. "Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)" Milk: None. "Grade A" Milk: None.

Number of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk: Pasteurising Plants: None. Retail Distributors: None.

Types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk: None.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation: None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes. What is their condition?—Fairly good.

Give date of the Regulations made under the Order of the L.G.B.: November 1st, 1890. Are they enforced?—Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow?—

(a) Where cows are habitually grazed: 600 cubic feet. (b) Where cows are not habitually grazed: 800 cubic feet.

Cowkeepers.—Total number of Cowkeepers: 18. Number on Register: 18. Number of Inspections during year: 50.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).—Total number of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors: 3. Number on Register: 3.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows? Give particulars: No.

Action taken as to (i) Tuberculous Milk: None. (ii) Tuberculous Cattle: None.

Number of samples of milk obtained during 1925 for bacteriological examination: None.

(b) Meat.—Observations on—

1) Meat inspection (including arrangements for inspection at the time of slaughter and for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924; disease in meat and arrangements for disposal of condemned meat: All carcasses inspected immediately after slaughter. Condemned carcasses (and portions of carcasses) are sent to Wigan for incineration.

(2) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles: Regularly inspected.

(3) Has a public slaughter-house been provided?—No. Private slaughter-houses—

Number registered: In 1920, 2; in January, 1925, 2; in December, 1925, 2.

Number licensed: In 1920, none; in January, 1925, none; in December, 1925, none.

(c) Other Foods—

Action taken in respect of places where food is prepared—
Bakehouses. Number: 3. Condition: Good.

Amount of food condemned or surrendered during 1925 as
unfit for human consumption—Tuberculous carcases and parts:
One carcase and one part; about 400lbs.

Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than
above): None.

Number of Legal Proceedings and result: None.

Food poisoning? Action taken (if any): None.

Action taken by Local Authority (if any) in respect of (i)
Sale of Food and Drugs Acts: None. (ii) Condensed Milk Regs.,
1923: None. (iii) Dried Milk Regs., 1923: None. (iv.) Milk
and Cream Regs., 1912—17: None.

6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

In March and April, 1920, an epidemic of Measles occurred in the New Springs district and it was found necessary to close the Infant Schools. The disease spread to the Bolton Road district, and the St. Elizabeth Schools and Wesleyan Schools were closed in April and May. In 1921 25 cases of Diphtheria were reported—3 deaths—and a Bacteriologist was appointed by the Council. Ten cases of Typhoid but no deaths. Fifty-five Throat swabs were examined for Diphtheria and two bloods for Widal test. 1922, nothing of particular moment. Also in 1923. In December, 1924, several schools were closed due to epidemic of Measles.

Diphtheria anti-toxin.—Notes on the supply and prompt use: Adequate supply always available.

Is a supply kept within the district?—Yes.

If so, where?—Council Offices.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Any special occurrence: One case.

Scarlet Fever.—Discovery of "return" cases: None.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, and Trench Fever.—Experience in regard to these diseases: No cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.—Arrangements: With Pathological Laboratory, Wigan Infirmary.

Number of specimens examined in 1925: Blood 2 T. (A. and B), Sputum 1, Throat Swabs 44, Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum none.

Action taken in regard to (a) Contacts, (b) Return cases, (c) Carrier cases: (a) Excluded from school—in Diphtheria Swabs taken. (b) None. (c) Excluded from School and isolated until Swabs proved negative.

Has any use been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases?—No.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—Number of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health: (a) Primary 71. (b) Re-vaccinations 2.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period (see Table on page 13):—Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea (under 2 years), Chickenpox, any others: No.

Number of times School Closure adopted during 1925 for—Measles, One.

Number of Reports made during 1925 under Section 14 (4) Sanitary Officers Order, 1922*: None.

*Section 14 (4) requires copies of these Reports to be forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics: No.

Has any special attention been given to (a) cancer, (b) locally contracted anthrax, and (c) rabies? No.

Disinfection—

Number of Houses disinfected during 1925: 50. Method (state disinfectant used): Formalin Vapour.

Are houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis?—Yes. (b) Measles?—No.

†Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise): Apparatus at Wigan Sanatorium available.

Number of Articles disinfected: 504.

Where is Apparatus situated?—Wigan Sanatorium.

†If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, &c., of Patients not removed to the Hospital?—Yes.

If not, please state how disinfection of Clothing, &c., in these cases is carried out: Generally Formalin Vapour.

Any arrangements for bathing verminous, &c., persons?—No.

In how many instances has disinfection been carried out?—None.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—Number of cases of infectious disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1925.

DISEASE	Total Cases at all Ages	CASES NOTIFIED											Total Deaths 65 and over	Hospital Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.		
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65					
Scarlet Fever	...	29	—	1	3	4	7	12	2	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup...	16	2	1	2	5	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	
(including Paratyphoid)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Primary Pneumonia	56	1	5	2	5	5	7	1	2	11	1	9	7	21	—	—	
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Fever	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Erysipelas	...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	4	—	—	—	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	10	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	—	2	—	8	—	—	
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	
Totals	...	128	3	7	7	14	16	20	6	10	20	3	15	7	35	8	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES			DEATHS		
	M.	F.	F.	(The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar General.		
	Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary.	
Years				M.	F.	F.
5-10	2			2	2	1
10-15		1				
15-20	1	2		1		
20-25	2		1	1	1	
25-35	1	1				
35-45	6	4	1	4	4	1
45-55	10			8		
Totals	2			3		

†What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?—All deaths have been previously notified.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations (Articles 3, 5, 6, and 7) relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade?—None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

Any action taken under this Section?—No.

If so, number of applications for compulsory removal to hospital?—None.

Number of cases in which Orders were granted?—None.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.*

*This section only applies to Local Authorities carrying out Maternity and Child Welfare schemes.

The Ministry of Health state the Medical Officer's Report should include information on—(1) The general arrangements made for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under five years of age, including the work of health visitors, midwives, and nurses: Under County Council.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1925.—Conversions of privies to water carriage, paving of yards, and general property repairs.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.—Conversion of privies to W.C.'s, paving of yards, repairs to property.

Signed,

L. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

